

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A metal surface on which a phosphate conversion coating is to be formed and which has been surface conditioned by contact with a liquid surface conditioner composition that contains dispersed fine particles of solid phosphate of at least one divalent or trivalent cations type and an adhesion promoting agent. After such conditioning, a very high quality conversion coating can be formed on the surface by contact with a nickel-free liquid phosphating composition that contains at least acid, zinc cations, and phosphate anions and optionally and preferably also contains other materials.